



1—American troops, just arrived in France, lined up to get their soup. 2—One of the new giant Gotha airplanes, with three cars, that was brought down by French gunfire near Soissons. 3—Friedrich von Payer, German vice chancellor and leader of the progressive party, who played an important role in suppressing the great strikes in the empire.

# AMERICAN BATTLE PLANES TO FRANCE

## Secretary Baker Announces First Shipment

### FIVE MONTHS AHEAD OF TIME

Peak Of Production Will Be Reached In Few Weeks—First Shipment Is Not Large, Secretary Of War Announces.

Washington.—The first American-built battleplanes are en route to France, nearly five months ahead of the original schedule.

In making this announcement Secretary Baker said the first shipment, although in itself not large, "marks the final overcoming of many difficulties in building up this new and intricate industry."

Optimistic as these statements appear, the Secretary said they should not be exaggerated and should be considered in the light of these facts:

#### Vast Ground Force.

That after three years of warfare the total number of planes able to take the air at any one time on either side of the western front has not been more than 2,500.

That 46 men are required on the ground for every plane in the air, making a total of 115,000 men needed for the present maximum of 2,500 planes.

"These planes," Mr. Baker said, "are equipped with the first Liberty Motors from machine production. One of them in a recent test surpassed all records for speed and climbing for planes of that type. Engine production, which began a month ago, is now on a quantity basis and the peak of production will be reached in a few weeks. Only the 12-cylinder type is being made, as developments abroad have made it wise to concentrate on the high-powered engine instead of the eight cylinder."

That for every plane in the air there must be two replacement planes on the ground and one training plane for every pilot who eventually reaches the front, with a spare engine for each plane.

After reviewing the many obstacles that had to be overcome in getting the aircraft production program under way, Mr. Baker said the great problem now remaining is to secure the thousands of skilled mechanics, engine-men, motor-repair men, wood and metal workers, etc., needed to keep the planes in perfect condition and without which the machines turned out soon would be useless and the fliers' helplessness.

#### Life Of Plane Short.

"At best," said the Secretary, "the life of a plane is but two months and the engine must be overhauled after 75 hours, while a pilot on a plane allowed to leave the hangars in imperfect condition is as helpless as a bird with a broken wing."

"Now that American battleplanes are going overseas a great increase in the volunteering of skilled mechanics is both essential and expected."

During the past month, Mr. Baker said, a responsive channel of communication with the Allies has been opened, the latest types of foreign machines have been adapted to American manufacture, the industry increased at least twenty fold, the training plane problem solved and the production of battleplanes begun.

American battleplanes were not due in France under the original schedule until July.

#### NEWSPAPER FOR THE SAMMIES.

Baseball Scores And War News To Be Told Men In France.

Washington.—Everything from war news to baseball scores will be printed in the "Stars and Stripes," a newspaper for the Sammies. The paper, probably already out with its first issue, will get a 1,400-word daily news report from the Committee on Public Information as well as other news and feature articles. The paper promises to be self-supporting, as it has a good advertising list.

#### BARS DOWN FOR NEWS PRINT.

War Board Issues Order To Pass Shipments From Canada.

Washington.—The War Board issued a blanket license for all news print paper to pass from Canada into the United States. In response to appeals from publishers all over the country, Chairman McCormick instructed all customs agents to pass print paper automatically.

#### ATTACKED BY TEN PLANES.

Admiral Sims Reports On Loss Of Ensign Sturtevant.

Washington.—Vice-Admiral Sims advised the Navy Department that the American seaplane, in which Ensign Albert Dalton Sturtevant, U. S. N. R. F., was lost, is claimed by the Germans to have been shot down in flames. Ensign Sturtevant was second pilot in the machine. "Apparently this machine was attacked by 10 enemy planes," the dispatch states.

#### "SHERIFFETTES" NOW ON DUTY.

Fifty-Five Around Training Camps For Protection Of Girls.

Washington.—Fifty-five deputy "sheriffettes" are doing scouting and patrol work around the training camps for the protection of young girls. Their work is chiefly concerned with girls who are attracted to the camps by the uniforms, girl residents of towns nearby who are working around the camps and girls who arrive to take jobs and who are without funds.

#### \$25,000,000 In War Stamps.

Washington.—Treasury receipts from war savings stamps Tuesday amounted to \$2,845,828, bringing the total for February to \$25,134,933, and the total for the campaign to \$59,931,107.

#### Presents His Credentials.

Washington.—Augustus Phillips, the new Minister from The Netherlands, presented his credentials to President Wilson.

# TO CALL 500,000 FOR ARMY

The Call Will Not Be Before May 1 And May Be Deferred To A Later Date.

Second Draft May Be Later To Avoid Disturbance To Corn And Wheat Planting.

Washington.—Details of the plan for calling out the net 500,000 increment for the National Army have become known on high official authority.

The call will not be before May 1 and may be deferred to a later date, in order to leave undisturbed the farm labor class during corn and wheat planting seasons. The detailed plans for the next quota have received the approval of the Secretary of War and will be placed in the hands of Provost Marshal-General Crowder in a few days.

Directions for handling the men to be called to the colors in the second draft will be placed in the hands of the various local boards throughout the country in April with definite word to each board how many men must be selected week by week and the total number which must be supplied.

The greatest difference in detail between the first and second calls for the National Army lies in the percentages of men to be sent to the camps and cantonments at various times. Under the first call definite percentage of the total number required were sent to camps. The plans for the second call contemplate sending men at the rate of about 10,000 a week if shipping conditions are such that the men already in the camps and trained can be moved to France at that rate, making room for the new men in the camps and cantonments.

It had been planned to call the second draft in 16 increments as accommodations for their training becomes available. This was altered in order to keep the camps as nearly full to capacity as possible.

The men for the second increment will be chosen from among about 250,000 men—those now in Class 1, and about 1,600,000 youths who have reached the age of 21 years since registration last June. About half the candidates are expected to pass physically. The call to succeed the one in May is expected to be obtained from Class 1, and from the boys who have come of age meanwhile.

The average number to be drawn from the territory covered by the jurisdiction of each of the 4,557 local boards is about 110, but the larger registration of aliens and others not in Class 1 may make the quota from each district greater. If legislation now pending is adopted before the next call each district will be called for a definite percentage of the men in Class 1 and who have reached 21 years of age since June 5 last.

#### COAL TO BE APPORTIONED.

Garfield Divides Consumers Into Four Classes And Creates Board.

Washington.—A direct method of preferential coal-distribution to supply first the requirements of consumers whose needs are considered necessary in winning the war and to curtail consumption by the less essential industries will be instituted soon by the Fuel Administration.

Class 2 would include necessary war industries; Class 3, necessary peace industries, and Class 4, the so-called makers of luxuries.

Preferential distribution would be enforced by orders to operators to supply consumers according to classification and by co-operative measures on the part of the Railroad Administration, which would assist by embargoes.

The program, outlined tonight by Fuel Administrator Garfield, calls for division of all consumers into four classes and for the creation of a preferential board representing the Fuel Administration, the army and navy and the Shipping Board to pass on the importance of consumers' needs.

Class 1, which would get coal first, as contemplated by Dr. Garfield, would include consumers put in a preferential list in the Fuel Administration's closing order of January 17. This list still is receiving preferential treatment, but there has been no classification of other consumers. It includes households, ships, railroads, public utilities and public institutions.

The plan furnished the first definite move to put American industry on a strictly war basis. The question of restricting the operations of the less essential industries has bothered Government officials since the outbreak of war, but thus far the problem has not been dealt with directly.

The purpose of the new plan will be, it was explained tonight, to disturb the industrial fabric as little as possible, and many of the industries engaged in producing materials not considered essential will be converted into munition plants.

#### DRAFT EVADERS TO PRISON.

Two Given Twenty Years By Camp Funston Court.

Camp Funston, Kans.—George Yeager, of Troy, Kan., convicted here recently by court-martial on charges of evading the draft, was sentenced to 20 years in the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth. Yeager, who is 23 years old, refused to serve, denounced the government and boasted that he was a member of the I. W. W.

# AMERICAN PLAN ADOPTED BY ALLIES

## Premier Lloyd George Tells Commons of Decision

### FOR CENTRAL AUTHORITY

Wilson Saw Peril To Allied Cause—Determined United States Should Not Waste Her Strength.

London.—Premier Lloyd-George made in the House of Commons his eagerly awaited statement regarding the recent army changes. He said the Government was anxious to retain the services of Gen. Sir William Robertson as chief of staff so long as it was compatible with the policy decided upon in common with Great Britain's allies.

The Premier said the policy of the Government was based upon the assumption that the Allies had suffered in the past through lack of concerted and co-ordinated efforts. It had been decided to set up a central authority to co-ordinate the strategy of the Allies.

The Premier asserted that the conclusions reached were the result of very powerful representations by the delegates of other governments, notably the American Government.

"I hesitate for some time," said the Premier in referring to the American representations, "at whether I should not read in the House of Commons the very cogent documents submitted by the American delegation, which put the case for the present proposal. It is one of the ablest documents ever submitted to a military conference. The only reason why I do not read it to the House is that it is mixed up with the plan of operations."

#### Document Most Able.

The Premier announced that Gen. Sir Henry Seymour Rawlinson had been appointed to represent Great Britain on the supreme council.

He said the country was faced with terrible realities. He begged the House to have done with all controversy, adding that the Government was entitled to know whether the House and the country wished it to proceed with the policy deliberately arrived at.

Anyone who examines closely the events of 1916 and 1917, said the Premier, would find plenty of argument for some change in the machinery in order to effect a greater concentration than had hitherto been achieved in the direction of the Allied Governments had decided that it was necessary to set up some central body to co-ordinate the strategy of the Allies. At the last conference at Versailles it was decided to extend the powers of that body.

The Premier explained that he was hampered in discussing the action taken at Versailles by a resolution passed at that conference by the military representatives and the Governments that it was not desirable to give any information regarding the general plan arrived at.

#### READY FOR THE HUN DRIVE.

Allies Prepared To Counter If Germany Violates Swiss Treaty.

London.—The Allies assuredly are fully alive to the situation detailed by William Philip Simms in his dispatch regarding the possibilities of Hindenburg invading Switzerland. If Hindenburg has completed tentative plans for such a move, the Allies are equally prepared to counter, as long as they are convinced it is the German policy to regard the treaty of 1815 as no more sacred than the Belgian "scrap of paper," providing the violation is considered strategically advantageous.

There is no doubt that the fullest cognizance has been taken of the recent massing of Germans near the Swiss border, which, however, must be regarded as a possible blind to distract attention from the real point of the projected offensive.

This has been suggested in some quarters in connection with the recent trip of General Smuts to Switzerland, which had been reported to be political in character, but which, perhaps, may have been really military.

#### HITS THE COUNTRY'S SCHOOLS.

Wholesale Resignations Are Due To Students' Desire To Join Colors.

Washington.—Wholesale resignations of students to join the fighting forces are seriously impairing the incomes of the country's colleges and universities. Dr. P. P. Claxton, commissioner of education, gave notice that if many of the institutions were to continue their work financial aid from the outside would be necessary.

#### BLAST WRECKS FOUR BUILDINGS.

Three Men Burned In Explosion At Wayne, New Jersey.

Wayne, N. J.—Three men were slightly burned in explosions which destroyed four buildings of the Wayne Powder Works here. Windows in buildings nearby were broken by the terrific force of the explosions. One wet house, one dry house and two wheel mills were completely destroyed.

#### ASKS \$2.65 WHEAT PRICE.

Thompson Introduces Amendment In The Senate.

Washington.—An amendment to the Food Bill to fix 1918 wheat at \$2.65 a bushel, instead of \$2, as now authorized, was introduced by Senator Thompson and referred to the Agriculture Committee. Amendments fixing the price of \$2.50 were introduced recently by Senator Gore and another naming \$2.75 was presented by Senator McCumber.

#### WOMEN TO REPLACE MEN.

Colleges Join Movement To Fill Positions Of War Services.

Washington.—A division to place college women in positions of war service vacated by men has been created under the intercollegiate Intelligence Bureau. The Bureau has announced the appointment of Miss Louise Shepherd, associate warden of Vassar College, as director. Mrs. Mawr Smith, Vassar, Wellesley and Barnard are among the women colleges co-operating.

# CALMLY AWAIT THE HUN DRIVE

With Full Knowledge Of What It Means, Tommies Are Resolute And Unafraid.

Officers And Men Feel That German Offensive Will Mark Turning Point.

British Armies in the Field.—With utter absence of panic or dread, the British troops are awaiting the shock of battle. Unlike Hindenburg's brag, the British do not pretend they are longing for carnage. The fighters are ready, with jaws set resolutely, calm and unafraid.

Not that the troops underestimate what is coming. On the contrary, every one is keenly aware of the situation. It is unlikely that any army in the world individually ever understood quite so well the importance of an approaching battle.

First, because its intelligence was never so high.

Second, leaders and men never were so thoroughly in each other's confidence.

Everyone appears to feel that in all probability it will be the turning point of the war; that behind the Kaiser's bluffing is a discontented nation of starving folk; that although Hindenburg undoubtedly has put everything he's got into this punch he cannot—must not—will not win.

Formerly only the generals knew what a battle was about. Today every soldier is wise to the fact that upon his home is to some extent depends much—even victory—perhaps an early Allied peace.

Meantime, a strange calm reigns over parts of the front. Here and there raids are increasing; there is a sporadic cannonading and lay machine gunning at wide intervals.

Otherwise the front gives an impression of calm before the storm.

#### BILLION-DOLLAR BILL PASSES.

House Puts Through Great Urgent Deficiency Measure.

Washington.—The billion-dollar Urgency Deficiency Appropriation, carrying half a billion for the military establishment and large sums for the navy and other branches of the Government, was passed by the House without a record vote.

In direct appropriations and in authorizations for obligations during the remainder of this fiscal year the total of the measures is \$3,107,220,000.

#### TWO-CENT COINS NOW ASKED.

Medium Recommended To Meet Change In Newspaper Price.

Washington.—Recommendation that the Treasury resume minting of two-cent coins has been made by the executive committee of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association in session here.

The new coin, it was pointed out, would provide a convenient medium of exchange in purchasing newspapers, the price of which generally has advanced to two cents because of the newsprint paper shortage.

#### 35 SAILORS ILL FROM HASH.

Case Not One Of Ptomaine Poisoning Or Ground Glass.

Washington.—Thirty-five men of the Norfolk (Va.) Naval Station became suddenly ill after eating corned beef hash, said a telephone message from Captain Dayton, in command, to Secretary of the Navy Daniels. The case was not one of ptomaine poisoning of ground glass, Dayton reported. Dayton's message was the result of alarm reports of a widespread poison plot at the training station, coupled with a story that at least one man had died en route to the hospital.

#### GENERAL KALENDINES SUICIDE.

Leader Of Don Cossacks Said To Have Shot Himself.

London.—General Kaleldines, leader of the Don Cossacks, has committed suicide, the Russian official news agency declared in a Petrograd dispatch received here. General Kaleldines' reported suicide has been rumored for several days. One report was that he shot himself after the civil government of the Don district voted to ally itself with the Bolsheviks.

#### 204 LOST ON TUSCANIA.

32 Soldiers Still Missing, Believed To Have Gone Down With Ship.

London.—Two hundred and forty Americans lost their lives on the Tuscania, according to the latest figures received at American army headquarters. Of this total there have been identified and buried, 3 officers and 137 men; unidentified buried, 1 officer and 31 men; missing (presumably went down with ship), 32 men.

#### ACCUSES HOG ISLAND BOSS.

Employe Says He Was Fired For Threatening Expose.

Washington.—Albert Freedman, formerly employed in the stores department at the Hog Island Shipyard, told the Senate Commerce Committee that he was discharged by J. E. Lynch, superintendent of stores, when he announced his intention of coming to Washington to testify to mismanagement at the yards.

# NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

## President Wilson More Hopeful of Austrian Peace Than Is Lloyd George.

## AGAIN SETS FORTH DEMANDS

Bolshevik Perplex the Germans by Abandoning the War Without Signing Treaty—Ukraine Makes Separate Peace—All Ready for West Front Offensive.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

President Wilson believes Count Czernin meant what he seemed to say in his recent speech on peace, and still hopes Austria-Hungary may be separated from Germany and that the war may be brought to an end without a great deal more of fighting.

Premier Lloyd-George believes that in its real substance the Czernin address was as uncompromising as that of Chancellor von Hertling and that the allied war council at Versailles was right when it declared peace must be won by force of arms.

In his address to congress on Monday Mr. Wilson enunciated the four cardinal principles to which he said the enemy must agree before general peace negotiations can be begun. Briefly, these are:

Each part of the final settlement must be based on essential justice to insure permanent peace.

No peoples shall be hartered for the gain of any sovereignty or to retain the now discredited "balance of power."

Territorial settlements must be for the benefit of the people and not of neighboring states.

All well defined national aspirations must be satisfied.

Until a peace based upon these principles is secured, the president asserted, America has no choice but to go on, and will continue its mobilization of its resources until the whole strength of the nation has been put into this war of emancipation. He denounced the stand of the imperial chancellor, but seemed to invite Count Czernin to lead Austria away from its autocratic ally.

Though hailed as a sign of weakening by most of the Teutonic press, the president's speech is not so regarded by his fellow countrymen. Many of them may believe he is overoptimistic concerning Austria, as does Lloyd-George, but they accept at its face value his statement of the nation's determination not to stop fighting until the results he demands have been achieved. They feel no harm can result from leaving open the door to possible negotiations with any one of the central powers, provided there is no letup in our war preparations because of the bare chance that they may not be needed.

Premier Lloyd-George's stand in supporting the Versailles council and maintaining secrecy concerning the plans decided on by it was indorsed by parliament, which gave him a vote of confidence by an overwhelming majority.

The German press warns Mr. Wilson again that his efforts to separate Germany and Austria-Hungary will be futile and calls his references to American mobilization mere bluff.

The Kaiser, it may be noted, also delivered a speech, in which he said any peace must be preceded by an admission of German victory.

The outside world is not permitted to know much of what is going on in Austria, but such information as does escape the censor really indicates that President Wilson may not be far astray in his hopes. It is said Austria shows increasing reluctance to sending her troops to fight against the British and Americans in France. The Berliner Tageblatt admits that the internal situation in Austria is serious and that government "is no longer possible, since the Czechs, Jugos-Slavs and Poles form an important majority, against

which the German parties are powerless."

According to an American correspondent in France, the peace program of Hindenburg, Ludendorff and the crown prince, forced on Von Kuehlmann and the emperor, includes the extending of the East Prussian frontier, making an autonomous protectorate of the Baltic provinces, dismembering Belgium and annexing or otherwise controlling the Briey-Longwy industrial region of northern France. The question of Poland apparently is left to Austria.

Meanwhile Trotzky and his bolshevik comrades have handed Germany a hard nut to crack. Flatly refusing to sign a peace treaty, they declared the war with the central powers, so far as Russia is concerned, has ended. They decline to fight longer against the workers and peasants of Germany and Austria. Simultaneously, the complete demobilization of the Russian armies was ordered, although it was reported that this order was immediately countermanded and that the reorganization of the Red guard was begun. At first the people of Germany and Austria hailed this great "victory" with extravagant joy, but in a few hours they and their governments began to wonder what it would avail them. They cannot obtain treaty recognition for their intended annexations on the east front, and they are far from sure that it will be safe to move to the west all or nearly all their troops. As the bolshevik leaders long ago admitted, the Teutons can easily push a long way into Russia, but what ultimate good will that do them?

The bolsheviks always have maintained that they are operating, not for the benefit of Russia or any other nation, but for the workers and peasants of all nations, and they are persistently continuing the spreading of their propaganda all over the world. Whatever may be the real motives of Lenin, Trotzky et al, they appear to have the Prussian autocrats up in the air just now.

Ukraine, one of the independent governments into which Russia has split, has presented a complication that may be more serious for the allied cause than the quitting of the bolshevik. It has signed a separate peace treaty with the central powers which opens to them the possibility of obtaining immense stores of food from that rich grain country. However, as pointed out in these columns some time ago, the transportation system of that part of Russia is so utterly inadequate that supplies can be got out only extremely slowly, and besides, the crops have been sadly neglected ever since the war began. The treaty gave Ukraine quite a slice of Poland, which aroused the Poles to bitter opposition.

Germany during the week attempted to put the screws on Roumania, demanding that it accept peace terms within 24 hours or suffer the consequences. But the Roumanians defied the Kaiser, declaring they still had unshaken confidence in their allies and would continue to fight to the finish. Their armies now occupy all of Bessarabia, where they have repeatedly defeated the bolshevik troops. It is believed they were nerved to take this determined stand by prospects of an allied offensive in the Balkans which they might aid by attacking the Bulgarians and Austrians from the north. There are increasing evidences that such a drive, to cut off Turkey and reduce Bulgaria, is contemplated. A new Roumanian cabinet is headed by General Avarescu.

In southern Finland, where the Red guards are still holding out against the government, horrible conditions prevail. Murders and all other crimes are committed openly and the bolsheviks are running amuck. Sweden still fears to violate neutrality and send help to the government. Recent reports from Stockholm said certain Red guard leaders had asked General Mannerheim to consider peace negotiations.

There is little to say of the Italian front except that the fighting there was mainly by the artillery and aviators and that neither side had any marked advantage.

Seemingly the stage is set for Germany's supreme military effort on the west front, and Field Marshal von Woyrsch, the invader of Poland in

1915, is said to have been selected to lead it. Allied aviators report that the Kaiser has gathered about 2,100,000 men there and that elaborate rehearsals are going on behind the lines. Where the blow will fall has not been revealed, but the commanders of the allied armies evince no fear that it cannot be repulsed. They have made every preparation that their skill and resources permit and are sitting tight. All feeling-out movements by the enemy have been checked and the French, in their turn, have been making some strong raids that carried them far into the German lines. In every way possible the Germans have been seeking to test the strength of the American forces, and there are indications that Pershing's men will be in the thick of the fighting when Hindenburg orders the forward movement.

It is believed in London, and hoped by naval men, that Germany plans to combine a naval drive with her spring offensive. The Kaiser is supposed to have a number of "supersubmarines" which have not yet been in operation and which may then be put to work.

Switzerland is growing very nervous with fear that the Kaiser will determine to tear up another scrap of paper and invade her territory in order to attempt to turn the right flank of the French armies. There have been large concentrations of German troops near the Swiss frontier, and Teutons in Zurich have openly boasted that the conquest of the little republic would be a matter of but a few days. It was said skeleton governments for the cantons already had been prepared by the authorities in Berlin.

Just in case his spring drive doesn't succeed, as the allies are determined it shall not, Wilhelm has been constructing most elaborate and extensive systems of defensive works back of his present lines all the way from the North sea to the Swiss frontier.

Vice Admiral Sims went to Rome last week, presumably to confer regarding plans to clear the Mediterranean of U-boats, which have worked havoc there with allied shipping for a long time.

Efforts of the government to recruit a great army of shipyard workers are meeting with considerable success, but the work of building our marine was threatened by a prospective strike of 50,000 members of the marine wood workers' union. They demanded \$6.40 a day instead of the \$4.50 allowed by the shipping board, and the government got busy at once to try to settle the dispute.

Chairman Hurley of the shipping board sent a telegram to the union heads warning them that the fathers who have sent their sons to war will not long permit continued interference with the shipping program and urging that the workmen continue their labors and trust to the fairness of the wage adjustment board.

Charges of gross mismanagement and reckless spending of money in connection with the new government shipyard at Hog Island, Pa., having been made, the president ordered an investigation to determine whether there had been any criminal misuse of funds. Rear Admiral Bowles, general manager of the Emergency Fleet corporation, said he was confident all expenditures ordered by the board would be vindicated.

Reorganization in the war department reached the general staff last week. It has been restored to its former power and under General March as acting chief of staff are now five new members—Generals Pierce, Jervey and Graves, and Colonel Ketcham.

Owing to good work by Director General McAdoo and his assistants and milder weather, traffic conditions have greatly improved, and Fuel Controller Garfield felt warranted in re-sending the order for heatless Mondays. The railroads are now giving much attention to the transportation of corn and wheat, for the former must be marketed and the distribution of wheat and flour still is very faulty.

Bolo Pasha, the Levantine financier who conspired to break down the French morale and to bring about a dishonorable peace and who was financed by Germany, was found guilty of high treason and sentenced to death. "They order those things better in France," as Uncle Toby used to say.

gone into all the neutral countries. "And our army is now self-supporting. We have men and factories in England and are producing all our ammunition, all our cannon and even our automobiles."

Adjutant Meerschaut is a Chicanagon.

Dr. Alfred W. Wishart of Grand Rapids, who returned recently from many months in the Y. M. C. A. work told of witnessing the arrival of former German ships loaded with American troops.

## EAGER TO REPEL GERMANS

Belgian Officer Says Army Is Stronger Than Ever, and Confident of Ultimate Victory.

Stop pitying "poor, ravaged Belgium" for a moment and listen to Adj. Walter J. Meerschaut of the Ninth Line regiment of King Albert's gallant and ever-growing army.

He spoke before the Chicago Association of Commerce about the things Belgium is doing today.

"Belgium's army is today four times as big as in October, 1914," he said. "We are holding twenty-eight miles of the line. When the Germans start their drive we will be in the thick of it. And we are ready."

"Most of our recruits have come to us from beneath the electric wire which Germany has drawn about Belgium. Thousands upon thousands of them have dared the death penalty to rally to their king. We are growing daily. All men up to forty-one years have been called out. That call has

gone into all the neutral countries. "And our army is now self-supporting. We have men and factories in England and are producing all our ammunition, all our cannon and even our automobiles."